

REMARKS

The undersigned requests a personal interview with the Examiner in charge of this application.

The undersigned hereby affirms the election made by Mr. Kroll by telephone on Feb. 18, 2005.

The drawings were objected to as not showing features recited in claims 2 and 14-15. The offending language in claim 2 has been removed, and claims 14-15 have been canceled.

The drawings were also objected to for the use of circles in Figs. 2, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, and 17-22. In replacement sheets the circles have been removed.

The drawings were objected to for the failure to show in Figs. 4, 5, 8, 12 and 16 where the cross sections were taken. It should be pointed out that Fig. 5 is not a cross section. Reconsideration of this objection is requested on the grounds that the preceding figures from which the sections were taken are exploded views and showing arrows on those figures could make the drawings confusing. It is self evident, it is believed, where the sections are taken when the parts are fully assembled.

The drawings were also objected to for legends used in Figs. 6, 9, 18, 19, and 20-22. Replacement sheets are submitted herewith with the corrections required by the Examiner.

The specification was objected to for a number informalities including the Abstract. These corrections have been made.

Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under Sec. 112, first paragraph. As noted above, these claims have been canceled.

Claims 1, 12 and 18 were rejected as being anticipated by Blanton.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected as being unpatentable over Blanton in view of Meadows.

Blanton discloses a mounting system for decorative lights. In Fig. 14 is illustrated a member 40 which goes over the outer wall of a gutter, with a protuberance extending upwardly for the attachment of clips to support the decorative lights.

Meadows has a decorative structure which is attached to the outside of a gutter and was cited for the use of a bolt 46 in Fig. 9 to attach the structure to the top of the wall of a gutter.

In the present invention, there is a permanent member attached to the gutter and a dismountable member which is attached when the decorative lights are to be displayed. The permanent member is inverted u-shaped, with a flat section running along the top edge of the outer wall of the gutter. Outside of the gutter there is a downwardly extending wall which supports a rod spaced from the gutter. On the inside of the gutter there is a downwardly extending wall terminating in a flange which is attached to the gutter support illustrated in Fig. 4. The dismountable member is an elongated channel member which either slides on or pops onto the rod. The outer surface of the channel member has hooks to support the decorative lights.

This basic configuration is not shown or suggested by either or both of the above references.

In view of the excellent art cited, claim 1 has been extensively amended to recite the permanent member with the rod supported on the outside of and spaced from the gutter. This claimed configuration appears to be lacking in the above art.

Depending claim 2 has been amended to recite more details of the permanent member including the u-shape configuration with the downwardly wall from the distal edge supporting the rod, the top wall extending over a top edge of the gutter wall, and the downwardly extending wall inside of the gutter. This configuration also is not found in the above art. Depending claim 3 which describes details of the dismountable member clearly calls for features not found in the above art.

Method claim 18 has been amended to recite the steps of mounting a permanent member with a rod on the gutter and using the rod to removably mount a member which carries the decorative lights. The steps involving the placing of the rod on the outside of the gutter is clearly not taught or suggested in the above art.

A new claim 20 has been added which recites in greater detail the features of this invention described above which does not appear to be taught or suggested in the art. Fig. 4 clearly shows the details included in this claim not already recited elsewhere.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims remaining clearly depart from the art of record and should be allowed.

A conscientious effort has been made to place this application in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned or Mr. Kroll if further changes are required to obtain allowance of the application.

A favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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